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Dear HELU Supporter,

Welcome! HELU is wall to wall, coast to coast, growing, and busy - we've got more to report than will fit here! What follows are some of the wide-ranging conversations, meetings, and events that are taking place under the HELU banner this summer. [Follow the HELU calendar](#) to find out more about our events and join us!

Read on to learn more about the growing higher ed labor movement, including a summer reading series for higher ed staff unions preparing to take on management; a 7/27 Crisis to Action event focused on collectively claiming U.S. higher education for the public good; a snapshot of July's higher ed labor news; and how to take actions in solidarity with higher ed worker fights across the country.

Upcoming HELU Events!

Crisis to Action: Fighting for Higher Education Locally and Nationally

Thursday, July 27, 2023

4pm PT/5pm MT/6pm CT/7pm ET

[Register here](#)

We find ourselves asking: Why is everything everywhere hitting so hard all at once? It's happening all over the country: higher ed is under attack through legislation, politically-motivated court decisions, defunding, and so many

Join our national conversation about the current state of U.S. higher education from the workers' perspective. What's happening? How did we get here? How can we - workers, students, and the communities around our institutions - work collectively to claim U.S. higher education for the public good? Help us ask and try to answer these questions.

Register Now - Event is TOMORROW!

Staff United: Building Fighting Unions to Take on Management

Are you a rank-and file member, staff organizer or leader of a staff union in a higher education or university healthcare context?

[Register here](#) to join Higher Ed Labor United in reading and discussing *Democracy is Power: Rebuilding Unions from the Bottom Up* by Mike Parker and Martha Gruelle. You can purchase the book or download a free PDF at <https://labornotes.org/store/democracy-power>.

We will meet from **7:30-9:00 PM EST** on 2nd and 4th Thursdays: **July 27; August 10 & 24**. This event is sponsored by Higher Education Labor United (HELU) as part of our wall-to-wall and coast-to-coast organizing campaign.

Register Now - Next meeting is tomorrow! + two in August

Recent HELU Happenings

HELU holds 2nd successful event focused on *Confronting Contingency*

On July 20th, HELU held its second successful *Confronting Contingency* event, with over 100 people attending. Faculty across states and higher ed sectors (public, private, for-profit) compared and discussed the conditions that perpetuate faculty contingency: in states with strong unions and a wide range of contracts; in states where collective bargaining is illegal; and in states

discussions about challenges facing local unions when they confront the divisions among workers created when employers hire on a contingent basis.

The Contingency Task Force was formed in May to raise the issue of contingency to the center of HELU's agenda. A year ago, the term "contingency" was not a familiar term to some; after these two events, more people in higher education understand that we are all now more or less contingent.

[Check out the recording of our first event](#) from June 20th, *Strategies to Abolish Faculty Contingency* (already viewed hundreds of times!)

Towards Higher Ed for All: Join HELU's Politics Committee!

For the past two years, Ariana Jacob, a contingent faculty member at Portland State University, productively chaired HELU's Politics & Policy Committee. On April 20th, she and Andrea Havercamp, Political Organizer at AFT-Oregon, coordinated a HELU hybrid event for Labor Spring 2023 with the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor about higher ed funding and debt crises. Ariana was recently elected president of AFT-Oregon, and Aimee Loiselle and Ian Gavigan have stepped in as co-chairs of HELU's Politics committee as we continue to focus on the intersecting issues of student debt; higher ed divestment; how to demand funding in ways that tie appropriations to overall increases in budgets as well as quality; free college; and reductions in student and institutional debt.

A zoom series coordinated by the Politics committee, "Crisis to Action: Fighting for Higher Education Locally and Nationally," launches tomorrow, Thursday 7/27 from 7-8:30pm ET. Confirmed speakers include Louise Williams, president of CSU-AAUP in Connecticut, who just helped to fight off a Democratic governor's most extreme cuts, and Stephanie Marcotte, an MTA-NEA Higher Ed Division Organizer who works with the statewide coalition Higher Ed for All Students, Workers, and Communities. [Register here to attend!](#)

The HELU Politics committee meets on alternate Thursdays at 4-5pm ET. Interested in joining or want more information? [Email us.](#)

Solidarity Asks

Solidarity Asks weave a network of mutual aid across workers in higher ed. Take action now to build national solidarity and show your support for higher ed workers of all kinds organizing around the country. Add your name, make a donation, get connected:

- [Sign this petition to support Penn State faculty](#) being targeted for antiracist pedagogy
- [Tell University of California to drop their charges against protesting workers](#), cease retaliation against workers for legally protected union activity, and honor signed union contracts
- [Use the information in this link to resist political interference](#) in Florida Atlantic University's Presidential search
- [Donate to the strike fund](#) to support U Michigan grad workers withholding their labor and sacrificing their pay to win changes in their workplace.

Does your union or organization need help? Send your solidarity ask to info@higheredlaborunited.org

Emerging UC Santa Barbara Labor Center seeks to hire Executive Director

UCSB, along with other University of California campuses (Irvine, San Diego, Davis, Riverside, and Santa Cruz) -- received \$500,000 last academic year to create a Labor Center, similar to those that already exist at UCLA, Berkeley, and Merced. These resources were generated as a result of pressure and mobilization from the state AFL-CIO who worked with their Democratic Party allies in the legislature to dedicate \$13 million dollars system-wide to create labor centers on every UC campus. These funds are renewed on an annual basis, meaning, each campus will receive \$500,000 this year as well and presumably in the years to come.

A search for the UCSB Central Coast Labor Center/Project's Executive Director has been approved. [Here is the link to apply](#). Please share this link with your colleagues, networks, comrades, and allies.

overall, please contact [Ralph Armbruster Sandoval](#) (current Faculty Director of the Center/Project).

Higher Ed Labor In The News

- [The University of California Is Escalating Its Crackdown on Dissent](#). Three academic workers at the University of California, San Diego, were arrested on felony charges of vandalism and conspiracy to commit a crime. They were using washable markers and chalk. [Tell UC to drop the charges!](#)
 - [Stanford University grad students vote to unionize](#) for better wages, working conditions
 - Texas A&M recruited a UT professor to revive its journalism program, then [backtracked on the job offer after “DEI hysteria”](#)
 - The [Higher Learning Commission sends letter](#) to University of Michigan’s Jared Eno citing concerns about U Michigan accreditation compliance
 - In Statehouses, [Tenure Was Bruised, But DEI Was Walloped](#)
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We're Growing - Get Involved!

In two years we have developed a vision platform, won endorsement from 145 higher ed labor organizations, and supported major job actions by HELU unions. This year we began asking organizations to join more formally, including funding our operations. So far, 22 organizations have voted to join HELU, and 47 are in discussions with leaders and members in preparation to take a vote.

In order to build our wall-to-wall and coast-to-coast program, we are seeking to fill out our formal delegate and leadership structure and hire full-time long-term staff. This fall we will be holding open group discussions about what it means, politically, financially and organizationally for a local union, organization, or individual to become a formal member of HELU. In the meantime, we are ready with helpful materials and happy to support individuals in discussions with your union’s or organization’s leadership about how (and why!) to join HELU.

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allies are leading? Get your union involved in HELU today!

- If you represent a union that has joined HELU, signed our vision platform, or is simply interested in getting your union involved, make sure you make it to our next General Meeting. [Contact us](#) to receive the calendar invite and Zoom link.
- If your union has not yet formally joined HELU as a member and is interested in getting more involved, [contact us](#).
- If you are an individual who does not have a union or worker organization through which to be involved in HELU, [sign up for At-Large membership today](#).

And don't forget to keep an eye out for more updates and opportunities to support higher ed labor organizing!



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